

Application No.: 09/704,272
Response dated: March 29, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action dated: February 7, 2006

REMARKS

By a Final Office Action dated February 7, 2006 in the file of the above-identified application, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 6 and 11 of the application under 35 U.S.C. §112, objected to Claims 2 and 22, and allowed Claim 23. In light of the amendments above and the arguments below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Claim Objections

On Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Claims 2 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the case claim and any intervening claims. In an effort to expedite prosecution on the merits and procure allowance of the remaining claims, applicants have now incorporated the limitation of Claims 2 and 22 into Claims 1 and 11, respectively. Claims 2 and 22 are cancelled herein. Accordingly, applicants believe that Claims 1 and 11 are in allowable form.

Claims Rejections - 35 USC §112

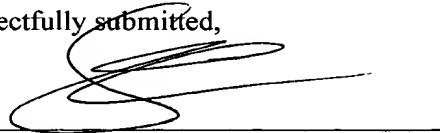
On pages 3-7 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st ¶ as failing to comply with the enablement and written description requirements. In view of the clarifying amendments made to independent Claims 1 and 11, by incorporating into them the limitations of Claim 2 and 22, respectively, applicants believe the Examiner's rejection is now moot.

In summary, applicants here present narrower claims solely to advance prosecution of this application which is now under final rejection. However, if upon reconsideration the Examiner is inclined to expand the scope of claims, applicants stand ready to reinstate broader claims in this application. If not, applicants have reserved the right to pursue such claims and non-elected Claims 4, 7-10 and 12-21 in a continuing-type case.

Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should any further issues arise, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned directly.

No fee is believed due in connection with this response. However, if any fee is due in this or any subsequent response, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



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